

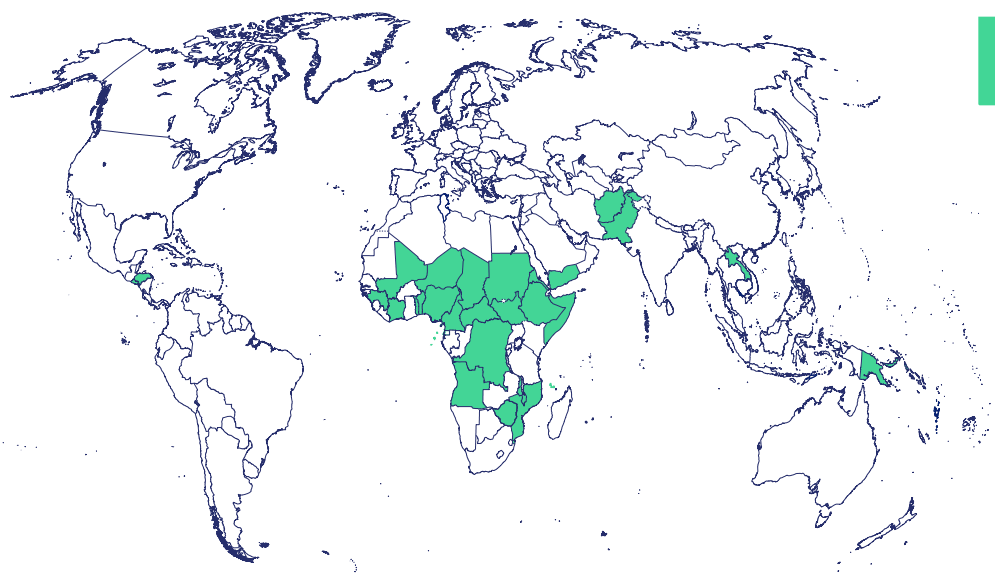
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# GIRLS' EDUCATION ACCELERATOR



GPE/Chantal Rigaud

Every girl deserves a quality education and every country deserves gender equality. In December 2020, GPE created the US \$250 million Girls' Education Accelerator to transform girls' opportunities to go to school and learn. To secure funding, countries commit to ambitious action for gender equality by investing in girls' education. The grant is implemented alongside and tightly integrated with GPE's existing grants – the system transformation grant and the Multiplier.



**Initially, thirty countries can access the Girls' Education Accelerator.**

These countries are prioritized because girls living in them lag the farthest behind boys in access to primary and lower secondary school, and they have the highest rates of early or forced marriage, or both.

- > Afghanistan
- > Angola
- > Benin
- > Cameroon
- > Central African Republic
- > Chad
- > Comoros
- > Congo, Dem. Rep.
- > Cote d'Ivoire
- > El Salvador
- > Eritrea
- > Ethiopia
- > Guinea
- > Honduras
- > Lao PDR
- > Malawi
- > Mali
- > Marshall Islands
- > Mozambique
- > Niger
- > Nigeria
- > Pakistan
- > Papua New Guinea
- > Sao Tome and Principe
- > Somalia
- > South Sudan
- > Sudan
- > Togo
- > Yemen, Rep
- > Zimbabwe

## ALLOCATIONS

For countries that are eligible for GPE's system transformation grant, allocations from the Girls' Education Accelerator are set at 50 percent of a country's indicative allocation, up to a maximum of \$25 million.

- For example, if a country's indicative allocation for the system transformation grant is \$120 million, it can seek the maximum Girls' Education Accelerator resources of \$25 million. If a country is eligible for a system transformation grant of \$30 million, it can seek up to 50 percent, or \$15 million.

Countries that are only eligible for the Multiplier but not the system transformation grant access the Girls' Education Accelerator based on the funding they mobilize.

- For example, if a country is eligible for up to \$50 million from the Multiplier, then its maximum Girls' Education Accelerator allocation is \$25 million. If this country mobilizes \$10 million of its Multiplier allocation, it can access \$5 million from the Girls' Education Accelerator.

The funds are not for a separate program, but are integrated into a system transformation grant, a Multiplier grant, or both. For example, a country may be eligible for a system transformation grant of \$60 million, a Multiplier allocation of \$25 million, and a Girls' Education Accelerator grant of \$25 million. These could be accessed as:

- A system transformation grant plus the Girls' Education Accelerator: \$60 million + \$25 million = \$85 million or
- A Multiplier plus the Girls' Education Accelerator: \$25 million + \$25 million = \$50 million or
- A combined system transformation grant, Multiplier, and Girls' Education Accelerator: \$60 million + \$25 million + \$25 million = \$110 million.

Funding is not guaranteed. Instead, countries secure support on a demand-driven basis when they are ready to design and implement programs that get girls into school and learning. Accessing the Girls' Education Accelerator does not create new milestones for grant preparation or add more time to the process, and countries should apply for GPE grants at the same time to maximize impact and alignment.

## HARDWIRING GENDER EQUALITY

GPE's engagement is based on a Partnership Compact prepared by national authorities with the local education group's support. Amongst other features, it articulates focus areas for external support – including from GPE – that can deliver sustainable, transformational improvements. Countries secure the funding by identifying girls' education as a focus area of their Compact and aligning its areas of work with the system transformation grant and / or the Multiplier, complementing and extending those grants' effects on gender equality. The funding does not support separate or siloed components of broader interventions.

## CONTEXT-SPECIFIC

Programs integrating this funding will operate in very different contexts: there is no roster of pre-approved interventions countries have to choose from. National authorities, the grant agent, and the local education group identify the right interventions based on national priorities and using rigorous evidence about what works. Funding can target the key barriers for girls' education in the education sector (like unequal access and learning), beyond it (like gender-based violence and child marriage), or both.

## RESOURCES

The Girls' Education Accelerator application process, procedures, and related templates can be found in the operating model guidelines.

Additional resources on the GPE quality assurance process, system transformation grant and the Multiplier are available at [here](#).